

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 9 and cancelled claim 7. Claims 1-3 and 8-9 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Drawings

The Examiner stated that Figure 1 should be designated with a "Prior Art" legend. Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet adding such legend to Figure 1.

3.) Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 7 for an informality. The Applicants have corrected the informality in amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 9 on the basis that there was insufficient antecedent basis for certain claim limitations. The Applicants have made appropriate amendments to those claims.

5.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form,

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including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 1 is now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 2-3 and 8-9 are dependent from claim 1, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also now allowable.

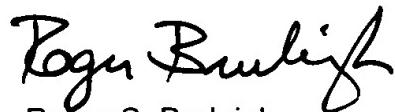
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3 and 8-9.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger S. Burleigh
Registration No. 40,542
Ericsson Patent Counsel

Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive
M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, TX 75024
Phone: 972-583-5799
Fax: 972-583-7864
roger.burleigh@ericsson.com